

02 April 1985
MBK-5005

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - Bangkok Bureau - March 1985

I. GENERAL

After having overrun the Thai-Cambodian border base areas of the Cambodian resistance's KPNLF and Khmer Rouge factions in January and February, Vietnamese forces seized the Ta Tum base area of the Sihanouk faction in 6 days of fighting early in the month. In an ominous twist to this third major offensive of the current dry season, the Vietnamese forces shelled the Thai border area of Sisakhet and Surin provinces and entered Thailand to attack the camp from the rear. Thai troops eventually pushed the Vietnamese out of the area but not before three strategic hills changed hands a couple of times. From 15 March Thai leaders began to suggest that Thai troops may also be forced to cross the border in pursuit of offending forces if such incursions continued.

The effects of the heated up Iran-Iraq war are being felt in Bangkok, where security has reportedly been heightened at the Iran and Iraq embassies and residences. The effects are noticeable at the Iraqi residence, which is adjacent to the apartment block housing the deputy chief and one of the senior editors, as the gate to this compound is now blocked by police cars and motorcycles. But in what is evidently a judgment call on which side is most likely to cause trouble, security at the Kian Gwan building, which houses the Iranian Embassy as well as Bangkok Bureau, seems only to have been augmented with a single, sometimes present policeman.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The Malay-language programs of the clandestine Voice of the People of Malaysia radio, mouthpiece of the Malaysian Communist Party leftist breakaway faction of the Malay Communist Party (using VOMD radio), were largely unheard at the bureau from 3 March, although the radio's broadcasts in other languages have normally been received with better reception. The radio has two Malay programs daily: the 2200 GMT cast has not been heard at all since 13 March, and the 1230 GMT cast has not been monitored since 19 March. Cruising checks continue on this oddity.

2. The bureau has cabled the embassy in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and the consulate in Madras, India, to solicit recordings of clandestine Tamil-language broadcasts, and especially the Voice of Tamil Eelam, for sampling by our new Tamil monitor. ✓

B. Lateral Services

On 21 March the bureau was advised that the British Embassy in Vientiane was being closed for economic reasons and that FBIS should thus anticipate stepped-up BBC interest in FBIS material on Laos. BBC's added interest in Laos should not add significantly to Bangkok's coverage of Vientiane sources, as the short-staffed American Embassy in Vientiane has required full FBIS support for several years.

C. Communications

The bureau developed a record punching backlog during the last half of February due, in addition to above-normal copy flow, to the absence of the Communications Unit chief and deputy on IBM-PC training and to a maternity leave. Overtime was instituted 15-17 March and the backlog was quickly dissipated (hence the unusually high bureau publishable wordage figure of over 830,000 words for March).

D. Technical

Following the IBM-PC training course in February, bureau personnel quickly put our computers to new uses. Chief Admin Assistant [redacted] and Communications Unit Chief [redacted] compiled personnel statistics on a crash basis and with extensive use of the computer in anticipation of C/AS [redacted] visit early in the month. On the cruising side, the IBM course trainers, with the aid of Cruising Coordinator [redacted] developed a cruising message format for the IBM-PC that would meet MOD's requirements. MOD subsequently sent a "hat's off" message to [redacted]. He finished building the bureau's cruising file on the computer on 20 March, and following that he and Cruising Monitor [redacted] developed a program for the bureau coverage schedule.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Attache status for the Bureau Chief was finally obtained late in the month after more than a half-year's delay because State Department communications channels failed to connect.

2. A new living quarters system for TCN's was adopted, effective 3 February, to replace the Living Quarters Allowance system, which has been largely phased out of the mission. Bureau TCN's are now in what are in effect Government provided quarters.

B. Buildings and Grounds

1. The bureau's second Intimus shredder has been received from Singapore and will soon be installed near the vault.

2. A consignment of office chairs, ordered more than a year ago through headquarters, arrived late in the month. We have found that locally produced chairs do not stand up well to our needs.

IV. VISITS

STAT

A. Chief of FBIS Administrative Staff [] TDY at the bureau
3-5 March.

STAT

B. An SDS team of [] TDY at the bureau
and the Bang Ping receiver site 6-8 March.

STAT

STAT

C. Two BBC visitors, Chief of SWB Part Two [] and Special
Assistant for Modernization [] visited the bureau on 7 March
while on private travel.

STAT

D. SOVA analysts [] visited the bureau
18 March.

STAT

E. Production Group's [] visited the bureau on 19 March while on
private travel.

STAT



Chief, Bangkok Bureau

RAW:lf

Attachments:

Monthly Production Report

BANGKOK BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR MARCH 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	834,320
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	305,880
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1,883

II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:

(minutes or issues per week)

<u>BROAD-CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI-CATION</u>
19,860 min.	20,450 min.	249.00 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:

(publishable words per month)

AUSTRALIA

Melbourne Overseas Service in English	32,800	
Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English		5,870
Sydney THE BULLETIN in English		4,240
Sydney THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN in English		0

BANGLADESH

Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali	5,760	
Dhaka Domestic Service in English	5,420	
Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali	360	
Dhaka Overseas Service in English	890	
Dhaka BSS in English		670
Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali		0
Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English		0

BRUNEI

Kuala Belait THE BORNEO BULLETIN in English	1,010
---	-------

BURMA

Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese	19,990
-------------------------------------	--------

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese			0
Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese			0
Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese			0
Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English			460

CHINA

Beijing International Service in Bengali	1,000
Beijing International Service in Burmese	10,560
Beijing International Service in Indonesian	970
Beijing International Service in Lao	0
Beijing International Service in Thai	7,950
Beijing in Cambodian to Kampuchea	2,560
Beijing in Hindi to India	0
Beijing in Malay to Malaysia	0
Beijing in Urdu to India and Pakistan	790

CLANDESTINE

(Clandestine) Vietnam Resistance Radio in Vietnamese	0
(Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	37,480
(Clandestine) Voice of Malayan Democracy in Malay	12,080
(Clandestine) Voice of The National Army Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	14,280
(Clandestine) Voice of The People of Burma in Burmese	6,360
(Clandestine) Voice of The People of Malaysia in Malay	4,860

HONG KONG

Hong Kong AFP in English	0
-----------------------------	---

INDIA

Delhi Domestic Service in English	48,170
--------------------------------------	--------

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
Delhi General Overseas Service in English	3,400		
Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English		1,480	
Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English			1,520
Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali			0
Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English			2,260
Delhi INDIA TODAY in English			0
Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English			1,360
Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English			600
Delhi PATRIOT in English			2,660
Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English			1,780
Madras THE HINDU in English			0

INDONESIA

Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian	12,430		
Jakarta International Service in English	1,540		
Jakarta BERITA BUANA in Indonesian			0
Jakarta JAKARTA POST in English			1,270
Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian			1,400
Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian			180
Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian			630
Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian			0
Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English			1,830

KAMPUCHEA

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian	52,300		
Phnom Penh SPK in English		16,720	
Phnom Penh SPK in French		12,700	
Phnom Penh SPK in French to KPL Vientiane			0

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
Phnom Penh VNA in Vietnamese to VNA Hanoi		0	
<u>LAOS</u>			
Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao	88,120		
Vientiane KPL in English		21,080	
Vientiane KPL in English/French to SPK Phnom Penh		0	
Vientiane SPK in French to SPK Phnom Penh		0	
Vientiane VNA in Vietnamese to VNA Hanoi		0	
Vientiane PASASON in Lao			0
<u>MALAYSIA</u>			
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English	4,800		
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay	2,760		
Kuala Lumpur International Service in English	12,710		
Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English			7,120
Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English			180
Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay			590
<u>NEPAL</u>			
Katmandu External Service in English	70		
Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English			160
<u>PAKISTAN</u>			
Karachi Domestic Service in English	11,070		
Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu	25,750		
Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu	2,330		
<u>SINGAPORE</u>			
Singapore Domestic Service in English	4,370		
Singapore Domestic Service in Malay	150		

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English			4,400
Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English			910
<u>SRI LANKA</u>			
Colombo Domestic Service in English	1,200		
Colombo Domestic Service in Tamil	150		
Colombo International Service in English	7,640		
Colombo DAILY NEWS in English			0
Colombo SUN in English			1,330
Colombo WEEKEND in English			280
<u>THAILAND</u>			
Bangkok 1st Army Division Radio in Thai	1,800		
Bangkok Domestic Service in English	1,930		
Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai	21,430		
Bangkok Domestic Service in Vietnamese	150		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Cambodian	0		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English	4,450		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Lao	0		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai	1,320		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Vietnamese	2,230		
Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English			40,670
Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English			23,580
Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai			490
Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai			220
Bangkok MATICHON SUT SAPDA in Thai			700
Bangkok MATICHON in Thai			440
Bangkok MATUPHUM in Thai			0

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
Bangkok PATINYA in Thai			0
Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai			700
Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai			2,530
Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai			0
Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai			1,710
Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English			27,380
Bangkok WIWAT in Thai			2,800

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Moscow International Service in Tamil	0
Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Indonesian	0
Moscow in Bengali to Bangladesh	2,080
Moscow in Burmese to Burma	1,140
Moscow in Cambodian to Kampuchea	3,780
Moscow in Hindi to India	2,020
Moscow in Indonesian to Indonesia	1,460
Moscow in Lao to Laos	2,720
Moscow in Thai to Thailand	0
Moscow in Urdu to India	0
Moscow in Urdu to Pakistan	720

UNITED KINGDOM

London BBC World Service in English	2,720
--	-------

VIETNAM

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese	90,580
Hanoi International Service in Cambodian	0
Hanoi International Service in English	9,310
Hanoi International Service in Thai	1,260

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese to NHAN DAN Ho Chi Minh City		0	
Hanoi VNA in English		4,170	
Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese			31,820
Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese			8,250
Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese			0